

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 51

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require three-fifths majorities for bills increasing taxes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 1995

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas (for himself and Mr. BARTON of Texas) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require three-fifths majorities for bills increasing taxes.

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*  
4       *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*  
5       *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*  
6       *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*  
7       *ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several*  
8       *States within seven years after the date of its submission*  
9       *for ratification:*

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. Any bill that would have the effect of  
3 increasing any revenue may pass only by a three-fifths ma-  
4 jority of the whole number of each House of Congress.

5 “SECTION 2. Except as provided in this article, total  
6 revenue of the United States Government for each fiscal  
7 year shall not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic  
8 product. Any revenue in excess of the limit shall be used  
9 to reduce the public debt of the United States Govern-  
10 ment.

11 “SECTION 3. A specific amount of additional revenue  
12 above the limit in section 2 may be authorized for the cur-  
13 rent or next fiscal year when a bill for this sole purpose  
14 is passed by a three-fifths majority of the whole number  
15 of each House of Congress and such bill becomes law.

16 “SECTION 4. Upon the President’s request, the Con-  
17 gress by a roll call vote may waive the first three sections  
18 of this article for any fiscal year in which a declaration  
19 of war is in effect. Any law that has the effect of increas-  
20 ing any revenue, if adopted when a waiver is in effect,  
21 shall expire no later than 2 years after the law is adopted.

22 “SECTION 5. This article shall take effect for the first  
23 fiscal year beginning after its ratification.”.

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